

Office of the  
State Department  
of Education

**Public  
School Information**

**2014  
Legislative  
Report**

**Advanced  
Opportunities**

*Contact:  
Jennifer Caprile  
Advanced Opportunities/GEAR-UP  
Coordinator  
Idaho State Department of Education  
jcaprile@sde.idaho.gov  
208-332-6944*

# ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES

---

The Idaho State Department of Education's Advanced Opportunity programs are intended to support the State Board of Education's goal that 60 percent of Idahoans between the ages of 25 and 34 attain a postsecondary degree or credential by 2020. The Department's Advanced Opportunity programs align with the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education by providing a step toward a mastery-based system of student advancement and expanding postsecondary offerings while a student is still in high school. These programs support students' postsecondary goals, reduce duplication and facilitate the transition between secondary and postsecondary education. The 8 in 6, Dual Credit for Early Completers and Mastery Advancement Program all reduce the overall cost of educational services and training to students and their families thereby removing barriers to accessing postsecondary education.

## Dual Credit for Early Completers Program

---

### BACKGROUND

Dual Credit for Early Completers Program was first approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2011 and was reinstated during the 2013 Legislative session (Senate Bill 1091). It is critical to helping motivate more students in high school and prepare them for postsecondary education. This program aims to ease the financial burden placed on families when their students go on to postsecondary education, whether it is college or professional-technical school. Students completing all state high school graduation requirements at any time prior the beginning of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade semester or trimester term, except the senior project and any other course that the State Board of Education requires to be completed during the final year of high school shall be eligible for the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program. Under this program, students are eligible to take up to 36 college or professional-technical credits of dual credit courses paid for by the state (up to \$75 per credit hour).

In the 2011-2012 school year, the first year students could participate in the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program, one student qualified for this program and earned 34 dual credits. The state distributed \$2,210.00 in reimbursement for the credits earned.

### UPDATE

During the 2012-2013 school year, 56 students in 17 different school districts qualified under the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program and earned approximately 200 dual credits while in high school. Of these students who completed dual credit courses in this program, 42 students graduated high school in 2013 and 37 of these student enrolled at postsecondary institutions for the Fall 2013 semester. During the 2012-2013 school year data collected was limited to the information reported by districts within the Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) fields provided. Many districts reported credits earned at the high school level for each course, rather than the credits earned at the postsecondary institution. The reimbursements made for this program were based on the ISEE data reported, which did not specify college credit or high school credit earned when entering dual credit course information. The state reimbursed \$31,827.50 for the 2012-2013 school year, a 93% increase from the program's first year.

**Dual Credit for Early Completers  
2012-2013 School Year**

School District	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Year	Number of Students	Post-secondary enrollment Fall 2014
Basin School District	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	1	1
Nampa School District	\$390.00	\$390.00	\$780.00	1	1
Middleton District	\$0.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	4	
Vallivue School District	\$0.00	\$675.00	\$675.00	3	2
Cassia County Joint District	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	1	
Orofino Joint District	\$0.00	\$455.00	\$455.00	6	
West Side Joint District	\$112.50	\$1,035.00	\$1,147.50	2	2
Hagerman Joint District	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$270.00	4	1
Forrest M. Bird Charter	\$5,330.00	\$845.00	\$6,175.00	11	9
Minidoka County Joint District	\$325.00	\$1,690.00	\$2,015.00	1	
Lewiston Independent District	\$780.00	\$0.00	\$780.00	3	3
Twin Falls District	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$270.00	2	
Kimberly District	\$1,875.00	\$13,715.00	\$15,590.00	10	7
McCall-Donnelly District	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	1	
Weiser District	\$0.00	\$520.00	\$520.00	2	
Idaho Virtual Academy	\$390.00	\$450.00	\$840.00	2	
Kootenai Bridge Academy	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$1,200.00	2	1
<b>17 Schools Total</b>	<b>\$9,977.50</b>	<b>\$21,850.00</b>	<b>\$31,827.50</b>	<b>Total: 56</b>	<b>Total: 27</b>

For the 2013-2014 school year, the Department has made improvements to the ISEE data collection system which requires districts to report college credits earned and grade earned for all dual credit courses taken by students in high school. This update has allowed the Department to expand the data collected for dual credit courses and improve the reimbursement process for the Dual Credit for Early completers program.

## GOING FORWARD

The Department will work with districts to continue promoting student enrollment in the program, and to provide technical assistance and webinar trainings. One of the limitations of this program is offering dual credit courses at all high school locations. Districts are working with the Idaho Education Network (IEN) to allow students to access a broader range of dual credit courses via videoconferencing equipment. The Department is also working on identifying teachers who may be qualified to teach dual credit courses and assisting them with acquiring proper credentials to offer the courses to prepare and keep up with the increased student demand for dual credit courses.

## 8-in-6 Program

### BACKGROUND

The 8-in-6 program (House Bill 426) was approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2012 to help Idaho students take advantage of the dual credit opportunities provided by the Dual Credit for Early Completers program. The 8-in-6 program is designed to support students in completing 8 years of schoolwork (2 years of middle school, 4 years of high school, and 2 years of postsecondary or trade school) in 6 years. Students with the ability and drive accomplish this by taking online courses over the summer and by taking online overload courses during the school year which allows them to progress through their high school requirements at an accelerated rate.

## CRITERIA

The 8-in-6 program is open to all students in grades 7 through 12. Program is limited to a 10% cap by district in each grade level. Students and their parents must enroll by submitting a completed assurance form to the district the student is enrolled in agreeing that the student take and successfully complete a dual credit or professional-technical education course for at least a portion of the student's courses during the eleventh and/or twelfth grade years. Under this program, students enroll and successfully complete at least one online summer or online overload course in addition to a full course load of at least fourteen credits per school year. The Department reimburses the district \$225 for each course taken in this program. Students in the program can take up to 4 credits per year. The Department shall pay for no more than a combined total of 8 credits of online overload and online summer courses per student.

## UPDATE

In fall 2013, the first year that students could participate in the 8-in-6 program, 87 students in 19 different schools enrolled in the program. Estimates based on preliminary information indicate that approximately \$19,575 is to be distributed for 2013 summer / Fall course reimbursements. The Department is awaiting final data submissions to process fall 2013 reimbursements. At present, the Idaho Digital Learning Academy is the primary source for 8 in 6 courses. The Department continues to strengthen its partnership with IDLA to leverage state resources and expand advanced opportunities programs.

<b>8 in 6 Program Enrollment</b>	
<b>January 2014</b>	
<b>School Name</b>	<b># of Students</b>
Aberdeen Middle School	1
Another Choice Virtual Charter	41
Bonneville High School	1
Capital Senior High School	1
Clark County Jr-Sr High School	2
Clark Fork Jr-Sr High School	1
Coeur d'Alene High School	1
Emmett Middle School	2
Firth High School	4
Firth Middle School	5
Forrest M. Bird Charter School	5
Hagerman School	4
Idaho Distance Education Academy	23
Jenifer Junior High School	6
Jerome Middle School	4
Mackay Jr-Sr High School	2
Madison Junior High School	1
Madison Senior High School	1
Marsing High School	22
Marsing Middle School	13
McCain Middle School	3
Mountain View Middle School	4
Murtaugh Schools	1
Nampa Senior High School	12
North Junior High School	1
Riverglen Jr High School	1

Sacajawea Junior High School	5
Salmon High School	1
Sugar-Salem High School	29
Twin Falls Senior High	2
Vera C O'Leary Junior High School	1
<b>Total Participating Schools: 31</b>	<b>Total: 199</b>

## GOING FORWARD

The Department is providing technical assistance, in-person presentations and webinar trainings about the 8-in-6 program specifics statewide. Student enrollment in the program is directly linked to the district's knowledge of how the 8-in-6 program functions. The Department is working diligently to ensure all district administrators and counselors are knowledgeable of the program goals and student requirements in the program. Barriers to program adoption include meeting the unique needs and goals of each student, which prevents a uniform approach to implementation. Supporting counselors is the current focus of the Department's effort in advancing the 8 in 6 program.

## Mastery Advancement Program (MAP)

---

### BACKGROUND

During the 2013 Legislative Session, the Idaho Legislature approved House Bill 1028, which removed the pilot phase of the Mastery Advancement Program (MAP). This program provides a mechanism to reward Idaho schools, students and the state for helping students to graduate early. MAP allows districts and public charter schools to utilize mastery exams through which students are able to test out of courses and can progress through high school graduation requirements at an accelerated rate. MAP also allows for programs within elementary schools to use various ways of challenging students at the appropriate level.

### CRITERIA (Districts)

School districts must apply by submitting an application during a specific window to the Department for review. Applications include a detailed plan for implementing the program, including a process for students to request a challenge exam, alignment to standards and test security measures. Participating districts must be able to demonstrate the reliability and validity of the chosen measure in ensuring strong enough course knowledge to be successful in next course in the series.

### CRITERIA (Students)

In order for students to be eligible for the MAP Scholarship (detailed below), students must have attended an Idaho public school for four full school years immediately prior to graduation. Students must have completed all district and State graduation requirements within 11 full school years or 9,900 hours to be eligible for one (1) year scholarship, two (2) years if within ten (10) full school years or 8,910 hours or three (3) years if within nine (9) full school years or 7,920 hours. Students must also attend an Idaho public college or university for the entirety of the scholarship period and within two years following early graduation.

### FUNDING FORMULA

The amount of scholarship for each recipient equals thirty-five percent (35%) of the statewide average daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil for each year from grades 1-12. The statewide average

daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil was calculated by adding the previous fiscal year's statewide distributions for salary-based, benefit apportionment and discretionary funds, then divided the total by the previous year's statewide public school enrollment for all grades.

FY 2013 Salary-based Apportionment	\$738,522,411.62
FY 2013 Benefit Apportionment	\$131,466,106.22
FY 2013 Discretionary Funds	\$281,371,529.82
Total FY 2013 Statewide Average Daily Attendance Funding	\$1,151,360,047.66
FY 2013 Enrollment	287,014
FY 2013 Statewide Average Daily Attendance Funding per Enrolled Student	\$4,011.51
Scholarship (35%) to be paid each to each MAP participant – two <i>payments of \$702- August 2013 &amp; January 2014</i>	\$1,404.00
35% paid LEA	\$1,404.00
Forgone Expenditures	\$1,203.45

#### PROGRAM UPDATE

Since the inception of the program, a total of 188 students have met the program criteria and were certified eligible as submitted by the school districts. Out of this number, 41 students are currently enrolled in an Idaho college/university and have completed their one-year participation eligibility in the program. In addition, one student from the Boise school district received and utilized a two-year MAP scholarship. Since 2011, 52 students have enrolled in an Idaho college/university and have completed their scholarship requirements. A total of 46 qualified students have not enrolled in any Idaho college or university and/or have relocated to another state. The program allows recipients up to two years to return and re-enroll in an eligible Idaho institution. Forty-eight MAP scholarships have expired resulting in \$70,608 of unexpended appropriated funds.

<b>2013 Total Scholarships Awarded By District</b>				
Boise School District #01	Blackfoot School District #55	Coeur d'Alene School District #271	Orofino Joint School District #171	<b>Total Scholarships Awarded</b>
38	3	1	1	<b>43</b>

#### Disbursements to Idaho Postsecondary Institutions

The Department issues two (2) scholarship disbursements to eligible institutions at \$702.00 per student in August 2013 and a second disbursement of the same amount in January 2014.

<b>College/University</b>	<b>August 2013</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
<b>College of Western Idaho</b>	\$ 3,510.00	\$ 2,808.00
<b>Boise State University</b>	\$ 15,444.00	\$ 11,934.00
<b>University of Idaho</b>	\$ 2,106.00	\$ 3,510.00

<b>Idaho State University</b>	\$ 2,106.00	\$ 2,808.00
<b>North Idaho College</b>	\$ 702.00	\$ 702.00
<b>Lewis Clark State College</b>	\$ 1,404.00	\$ 1,404.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	\$ 25,272.00	\$ 23,166.00
	\$ 25,272.00	

## **GOING FORWARD**

The Department will continue to conduct outreach to districts and charters on the benefits of MAP. Although numbers of students receiving scholarships have decreased in this program, we believe providing trainings to districts about the benefits in the program will result in an increase of applications submitted for the 2014-2015 school year.

## **ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES GOING FORWARD:**

During 2014, the Department has set clear goals to make sure local schools and districts expand access to the advanced opportunity programs that are already in place. These goals include creating marketing materials for districts to utilize, face-to-face and webinar trainings, and working closely with the State Board of Education, IDLA and other stakeholders to increase coherence and awareness of all state sponsored programs supporting the 60% by 2020 goal.

The Department has set specific targets for the 8-in-6 program include increasing the number of participants in the 8-in-6 program to 1,000 students by May of 2014 who will complete over 1,500 online summer or online overload credits. With the additional ISEE data collection points being introduced we foresee an increase in Dual Credit for Early Completer participants for the 2013-14 school year.

In addition to growing current programs, the Task Force for Improving Education recommended the state ensure that all students have access to advanced opportunities by expanding postsecondary offerings while a student is still in high school. To accomplish this, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has requested an additional \$2.4 million in funding to support a bipartisan bill to expand advanced opportunities across the state. Specifically, this legislation would give every high school junior access to up to \$200 a year and every high school senior access to up to \$400 a year to use toward dual credit, Advanced Placement, or professional-technical courses or exams.